

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15

STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SOE-02

OMB-01 DOE-11 NRC-05 PM-05 /125 W

-----117297 020621Z /14

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4999

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MTN, ETRD, AU

SUBJECT: GOA COMMENTS ON RECENT MTN DEVELOPMENTS

1. TRADE MINISTER STARIBACHER'S PRESS BRIEFING ON JAN 30 SERVED AS SITE FOR REPORT ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN MTN, INCLUDING TABLING OF THE GOA OFFER. THE INITIAL SPOKESMAN, DR. WILLENPART, WAS PRINCIPAL AUSTRIAN REPRESENTATIVE AT RECENT GENEVA MEETING. WILLENPART OPENED ON OPTIMISTIC NOTE, STATING THAT THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE ("BREAKTHROUGH") FOR THE BETTER IN THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS AND A CLEAR CONSENSUS TO COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS BY JULY AND FINAL AGREEMENTS BY THE END OF THE YEAR. IN DESCRIBING THE VARIOUS NTMS UNDER NEGOTIATION, WILLENPART EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM ONLY ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR AN AGREEMENT ON NATIONAL PREFERENCES IN PUBLIC TENDERS.

2. WILLENPART'S OPTIMISM WAS DAMPENED CONSIDERABLY BY
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MINISTER STARIBACHER WHO STATED DIPLOMATICALLY BUT CLEARLY THAT HE DOES NOT SHARE HIS AIDE'S HOPES. HE STRESSED TO THE PRESS THAT AT PRESENT AUSTRIA'S TRADE PARTNERS SEEM TO BE MORE HEAVILY ENGAGED IN BUILDING NEW TRADE BARRIERS THAN IN DISMANTLING EXISTING ONES.

3. COMMENT. STARIBACHER'S COMMENTS ARE OUT OF LINE

WITH BOTH HIS OVERALL APPROACH AND WITH EARLIER
STATEMENTS ABOUT MTN. WE ARE INCLINED TO ATTRIBUTE
THEM -- AT LEAST IN PART -- TO A PARTICULARLY ROUGH
WEEK WRESTLING WITH AUSTRIAN-EC NEGOTIATIONS ON STEEL
AND THE CHAOTIC DOMESTIC NUCLEAR POWER SITUATION IN
WHICH HE IS DEEPLY INVOLVED. WOLF

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NNN

Message Attributes

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